(c) whether some of these banks are facing resource crunch, and

(d) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Orissa with their headquarters located at Pipli, Bolangir, Cuttack, Jeypore, Baripada, Bhawanipatna, Balasore, Berhampur and Dhenkanal.

(b) The main objectives of the RRBs are to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas, to make available institutional credit to the weaker sections of the society, to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas, to create supplementary channel for flow of credit from the central money market to the rural areas through re-finance, to generate employment opportunities in rural areas and to bring down the cost of providing credit in rural areas.

The RRBs in Orissa have mobilised deposits of Rs. 604.88 crores (Provisional) as on 31st March, 1996 and their loans and advances outstanding as on that date stood at Rs. 390.08 crores (Provisional). While growth in deposits was 26.7% and 28.5% during 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively, the growth in loans and advances was at 19.2% and 22.1% during the above two years.

(c) and (d). National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that no indication of resources crunch has been brought to the knowledge of NABARD by the RRBs. However, five RRVs in Orissa which were taken up for comprehensive revamping have been provided with additional equity by Government of India and sponsor banks for cleansing of their balance sheets.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Rural Water Supply

547. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loans for water supply and environmental sanitation projects especially for the tribal and rural areas of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned and the amount expected to be allocated project-wise out of the funds received from the World Bank; and

(c) the details of implementing agencies of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Piparwar Opencast Coal Project

548. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Piparwar open cast Coal project of Central Coal Field Ltd. started in 1989 is proving costly project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated budget allocation for the project; and

(d) the total amount spent on the project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Piparwar Opencast Coal Project was approved in September, 1989 with a capital investment of Rs. 542.43 crores for the production of 6.5 Million Tonnes coal per annum. In May, 1993, the cost was updated and the Project was sanctioned with an investment of Rs. 838.27 crores. The expenditure so far incurred on the Project till March, 1996 is Rs. 961.35 crores. Some more expenditure is expected or the completion of the Project. In 1995-96, the production was 6.85 Million Tonnes yielding a total profit of Rs. 62.74 crores or Rs. 91.53 per tonne of coal.

(b) The Project cost has significantly increased due to :-

(i) Variation in foreign exchange rate;

(ii) The Project cost was estimated on the basis of constant prices whereas the actual cost includes inflationary effect;

(iii) Additional provision of housing, taxation and capitalisation of revenue expenditure;

(iv) Delay in implementation of the project due to delay in getting physical possession of land.

(c) and (d). The Budget allocation for 1996-97 for this Project is Rs. 38.60 crores and Rs. 961.35 crores has been the expenditure incurred on the Project till 31st March, 1996.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Sericulture

549. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have made a request to increase subsidy on sericulture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?